



To: All EMS Providers
From: Kraig Kinney, J.D., Director and Counsel of EMS, Indiana
Department of Homeland Security
Date: March 27, 2020
Re: CPR Card Status

The current individual provider applications for EMT, Advanced EMT and paramedic all include a copy of a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification. The rules for paramedic licensure specifically require a current copy of both a CPR certification but also an advanced cardiac life support certification. 836 IAC 4-9-5.

On March 13, 2020, the American Heart Association (the leading provider for both CPR and ACLS certifications) issued Interim Guidance on Extensions for AHA Instructor and Provider Cards during COVID-19 Outbreak. The AHA recommended “that employers and regulatory bodies consider extending recognition of an AHA Provider Card beyond its renewal date, for up to 60 days.”

The Governor of the State of Indiana has issued Executive Order #20-09 which provides that “the expiration of any agency-issued license, certification or permit which has expired in or is set to expire during, this public health emergency shall be extended automatically to Friday, May 22, 2020.”

Noting the existence of both a national emergency but a declared Indiana Public Health Emergency, it is my legal interpretation and directive that for purposes of functioning in EMS, that the requirement for a CPR certification and/or an ACLS certification are integrally tied to the underlying EMS certifications. Since the EMS certifications have been extended, the only logical conclusion is the underlying certifications be extended all well. Succinctly put, the focus of EMS is currently in operational phases of this Public Health Emergency and any requirement to recertify during the Public Health Emergency would not be consistent with the current mission or resources.

Therefore, any CPR or ACLS certification that shows an expiration date between March 6, 2020, through May 22, 2020, is considered valid in the State of Indiana for EMS purposes including functioning as an active EMS provider utilizing that certification and for certification purposes.